

FACT SHEET
13 October 2021

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED – COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION AND GOVERNANCE

Each fortnight, Care For Our Region address key questions raised by staff and communities. This fortnight, we outline how communities in Horsham, Edenhope, Stawell and Ballarat will be represented in the new Grampians health service.

Should the voluntary amalgamation be approved, individual hospital names will remain unchanged and fall under the banner of a larger entity name, there will be local representation on the new board and through local advisory committees, and local fundraising will go directly to the intended local service.

How will the new Grampians health service be governed?

The new health service is proposed to be classified as a public health service under the *Health Services Act 1988* (the Act). It will be governed by a Board of Directors and the new board will:

- Have representation from all health service communities in all levels of the governance structure
- Ensure local knowledge and expertise in rural health are embedded in all levels of the governance structure

These requirements will be publicly stipulated in the new organisation's founding documents, including the Board's by-laws.

How will the board be appointed?

Consistent with the requirements of public health services under the Act, board membership will include a maximum of nine individuals, unless an exemption is applied, and appointed by the Minister for Health.

In our proposal to the Department of Health and the Health Minister, we recommended that the new entity's board:

- Is foremost comprised of existing board directors from each of the health services (Edenhope, Stawell, Horsham and Ballarat)
- Recognise 'knowledge of local communities' and 'rural health experience' as key skills considered important for board membership
- Have the required skills mix to provide effective governance of a health service of this size and complexity

The appointment term of new board directors will be staggered to provide stability and continuity and ensure that not all directors are up for reappointment at the same time. The Department of Health coordinates the board appointments, just like they do for all Victorian health services.

How will the board be structured?

The board of the new health service will establish committees in line with the requirements of the Act, including:

- Audit, Finance and Quality and Safety Committee
- Community Advisory Committee
- Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Committee

An 'Integration Committee' will also be established to oversee the transition to the new Grampians health service.

How will the community be represented?

Local representation will be maintained in set areas within the Grampians and Wimmera regions, and include:

- A Community Advisory Committee with four reference grouping reporting in from each community for the Ballarat, Horsham & Dimboola, Edenhope and Stawell
- Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Committees for the Wimmera and Central Highlands areas. These committees will have representation from the Ballarat, Horsham & Dimboola, Edenhope and Stawell communities

How can I get involved?

The new Board of Directors will determine the constitution of the Community Advisory Committee, with an emphasis on local community voice. Pending the approval of the new Grampians health service, we will immediately begin to recruit the Community Advisory Committee. If you are interested in joining the committee, we encourage you to subscribe to the Care for our Region newsletter to receive regular updates on the process and to be notified about nominations opening by visiting carefourregion.com.au/subscribe

The Boards of Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital, Stawell Regional Health, Wimmera Health Care Group and Ballarat Health Services believe they will be healthier, stronger, together.

For more information or to have your say visit carefourregion.com.au